Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Currently Amended) A method for product order processing via a communications network, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing providing, via a communications device having communications network access, at least one product order to a supplier for fulfilling the at least one product order, the at least one product order being stored on at least one data storage device implemented on the communications network;

in response to accessing the at least one product order, entering receiving an order fulfillment status into the communications device from the supplier, the order fulfillment status being communicated to and stored on the at least one data storage device via the communications network and the order fulfillment status indicating whether the product order is open, partially fulfilled, fully fulfilled, or shipped;

querying the data storage device to determine if the order fulfillment status indicates the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled;

shipping at least a portion of the product order using a shipping label generated by the communications device, the communications device configured to generatinge the a shipping label by the communications device in response to determining that the order fulfillment status indicates the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled;

providing access to the generated shipping label to the supplier to allow the supplier to print the shipping label; and

providing the order fulfillment status, via the communications device network, to intended networked recipients the supplier and the entity that placed the product order.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising providing shipment related information, via the communications network, to the entity that placed the product order.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising providing, upon shipment, billing related information, via the communications network, to the entity that placed the product order.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the billing related information includes product charges and shipping charges.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for product order entry, product order visibility, and product order processing in a communications network, the method comprising the steps of:
        receiving one or more product orders from a first communications device having communications network access, each product order including at least one product ~~and a designated supplier~~;
        identifying one or more particular suppliers from a plurality of suppliers to fulfill each product order;
        storing the one or more product orders and the identified one or more particular suppliers associated with each product order on at least one data storage device, the at least one data storage device being implemented on the communications network;
        in response to receiving each of the one or more product orders, communicating each product order to a ~~second~~ communications device associated with each identified particular supplier from the at least one storage device over the communications network, ~~the second communications device being associated with the designated supplier~~;

~~in response to receiving the at least one product order, entering~~ <u>receiving</u> an order fulfillment status ~~into~~ <u>from</u> the ~~second~~ communications device <u>associated with each identified particular supplier</u>, the order fulfillment status being communicated to and stored on the at least one data storage device and the order fulfillment status indicating whether the product order is open, partially fulfilled, fully fulfilled, or shipped;

~~querying the data storage device to determine if the order fulfillment status indicates the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled;~~

in response to ~~determining that~~ <u>receiving</u> the order fulfillment status <u>and the order fulfillment status</u> indicat[[es]]<u>ing that</u> the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled, generating a shipping label for the product order <u>and providing the generated shipping label to the communications device associated with each identified particular supplier to allow the shipping label to be printed</u>; and

<u>in response to receiving the order fulfillment status,</u> communicating the order fulfillment status, via the communications network, to the entity that submitted the product order.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising communicating shipment confirmation and tracking information, via the communications network, to the entity that submitted the product order.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising communicating, upon shipment, billing related information, via the communications network, to the entity that placed the product order.

12.   (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the billing related information includes product charges and shipping charges.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) An order entry and visibility system for communicating product orders and order information in a communications network, the system comprising:

a first communications device having communications network access that receives a product order and communicates the product order to a supplier;

a second communications device having communications network access that receives the product order from the first communications device, the second communications device further configured for receiving order processing status information, communicating the order processing status information to the first communications device, and generating a completed shipping label for at least a portion of the product order in response to receiving the order processing status information; and

a communications network database that stores the product order and order processing status information for the purpose of providing the first communications device and the second communications device network access to the product order and order processing status information;

wherein the first communications device is further configured to receive ongoing status information related to the product order and receive confirmation that the product order has shipped upon generation of the completed shipping label, and

wherein the second communications device provides the supplier with access to the generated completed shipping label to allow the supplier to print the generated completed shipping label.

17.   (Previously Presented) The order entry and visibility system of Claim 16, wherein the second communications device is further configured to provide the status of the order and

communicate the shipment of the product order to the first communications device upon generation of the completed shipping label.

18.   (Previously Presented) The order entry and visibility system of Claim 16, wherein the second communications device is further configured to provide billing information, including shipping charges, to the first communications device upon generation of the completed shipping label.

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing:

a product order entry and visibility application implemented within a communications network that is configured for receiving one or more product orders, each of the one or more product orders including one or more products and a designated networked supplier to supply the one or more products, the communications network adapted to communicate each of the one or more product orders from the product order entry and visibility application to [[the]] one or more networked suppliers designated in capable of fulfilling each product order; and

an order processing and visibility application implemented within the communications network that is configured for providing[[es]] each networked supplier access to the one or more product orders designating the networked supplier and order statusing capabilities,

wherein the product order entry and visibility application is further configured to (1) receive order status information from the networked supplier for each of the one or more product orders in response to the processing of the product order by the designated networked supplier, the order status information indicating whether the product order is open, partially fulfilled, fully fulfilled, or shipped and (2) present the order status information to an entity that placed the product order in response to receiving the order status information; and

the order processing and visibility application further configured to generate a completed shipping label for at least a portion of the product order in response to receiving order

status information indicating that the at least a portion of the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled <u>and provide the generated shipping label to the networked supplier for printing</u>.

20.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the product order entry and visibility application further comprises an Internet based web-site application implemented on a compatible Internet browser.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the product order processing and visibility application further comprises an Internet based web-site application implemented on a compatible Internet Browser.

22.   (Currently Amended) A communications device-facilitated, product order entry and visibility system for use by purchasers of products and suppliers of the products, the system comprising:

means for enabling a purchaser to submit a product order to a supplier by inputting order information into a first networked communications device via a network application;

means for enabling the supplier to access the network application via a second networked communications device for the purpose of fulfilling the product order<u>;</u>

<u>means for</u> [[and]] generating a completed shipping label for the product order, the shipping label being generated <u>by the network application</u> in response to ~~providing~~ <u>receiving</u> order fulfillment status information ~~to the network application~~ <u>from the supplier</u> indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled;

<u>means for enabling the supplier to access the network application via the second networked communications device for the purpose of accessing and printing the generated completed shipping label;</u> and

means for enabling the product order entry and visibility system to manage the status of the product order and provide immediate order fulfillment status information to the

purchaser, wherein the order fulfillment status information indicates whether the product order is open, partially fulfilled, fully fulfilled, or shipped.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 22, further comprising means for enabling the product order entry and visibility system to provide the purchaser with shipping related information in response to receiving order fulfillment status information indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been shipped.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 22, further comprising means for enabling the product order entry and visibility system to provide the purchaser with billing related information, including shipping charges, in response to receiving order fulfillment status information indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been shipped.

25.   (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform steps for order entry, order visibility and automatic shipping label generation in a communications network, the program of instructions comprising the steps of:

providing a product order entry application for communicating with [[to]] a first communications device having communications network access;

storing product order entry information received by product order entry application from the first communications device in a database in communication with the communications network;

providing a product order visibility application for communicating with [[to]] a second communications device having communications network access;

receiving order fulfillment status information from the second communications device via the product order visibility application, the order fulfillment status indicating whether each of the one or more product orders is open, partially fulfilled, fully fulfilled, or shipped;

providing the order fulfillment status information to the first communications device via the product order entry application; [[and]]

generating a completed product order shipping label in response to receiving order fulfillment status information indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled, wherein the product order shipping label comprises stored product order entry information; and

providing access to the completed product order shipping label via the product order visibility application to the second communications device, the access allowing the second communications device to print the completed product order shipping label.

26.   (Currently Amended) The program storage device of Claim 25, wherein the program of instructions further comprises the step of communicating shipping status information in response to receiving order fulfillment status information indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been shipped.

27.   (Previously Presented) The program storage device of Claim 25, wherein the program of instructions further comprises the step of communicating billing information in response to receiving order fulfillment status information indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been shipped.

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Currently Amended) A communication device program product, comprising:

a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein for providing order entry, order visibility and automated shipping label generation in a communications network, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer-readable program means for providing a product order entry application for communicating with [[to]] a first communications device having communications network access;

computer-readable program means for storing product order information in a database in communication with the communications network;

computer-readable program means for communicating the product order to a supplier via the communications network;

computer-readable program means for providing a product order visibility application <u>communicating with</u> [[to]] a second communications device having communications network access;

computer-readable program means for generating a completed product order shipping label in response to receiving order fulfillment status information from the second communications device indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been partially or fully fulfilled, wherein the product order shipping label comprises stored product order entry information;

<u>computer-readable program means for providing access to the completed product order shipping label to the second communications device to allow the second communications device to print the shipping label;</u> and

computer-readable program means for communicating via the communications network the order fulfillment status of at least a portion of the product order, the order fulfillment status indicating whether the product order is open, partially fulfilled, fully fulfilled, or shipped.

30.   (Previously Presented) The product of Claim 29, wherein the computer usable medium further comprises computer-readable program means for communicating via the communications network billing related information, including shipping charges, in response to receiving order fulfillment status information indicating that at least a portion of the product order has been shipped.

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein the at least one data storage device comprises a first data storage device and a second data storage device, the first and second data storage devices being disposed on a single storage device.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein the at least one data storage device comprises a first data storage device and a second data storage device, the first and second data storage devices being disposed on separate storage devices.

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of manually entering the at least one product order into the first communications device.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of electronically transferring a product order from a pre-existing order entry system to the first communications device.